

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 30, 2000

LB 26

investment. A study was done in Minnesota for three years and some of you have copies of it, and I've looked through it. And the one most significant paragraph I see is that says that when there is a breakfast program for children that their disciplinary referrals, now this doesn't mean serious problems, but that the referrals, I suppose, to the principal's office, will decline between 40 and 50 percent where there is an adequate school breakfast program. Now just think of that, does it make that much difference? The tests prove that it did. So I think this is an important step forward. We pump a lot of money into state school aid. This is one area where I think we need to direct it into a program of nutrition that is really going to benefit particularly younger children. And I would strongly urge the advancement of LB 26.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Further debate on the advancement of LB 26? Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members, Senator Bohlke, if I could ask you a question or two. This was...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: This would provide 5 cents for each breakfast served, I believe is what I heard you say.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, per meal.

SENATOR RAIKES: What actually does it cost to provide such a meal?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Well there's a range of costs, Senator Raikes, depending on what your reimbursement is from the federal government. The average cost schools would charge would be between 70 and 80 cents, that's what they would charge, the average cost is \$1.10. But it depends, for free...for free the cost, the federal reimbursement for free is \$1.09; federal reimbursement for reduced is 79 cents, and federal reimbursement if children pay is 21 cents. So there's a difference.